AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving said program content from a broadcaster;

b) receiving from said broadcaster a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content;

c) directing said set of URLs received from said broadcaster to a computer system and directing said program content received from said broadcaster to said television, wherein said computer system uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs a plurality of ~~one or more~~ URLs of particular interest to a user, said user profile comprising user inputs that identify characteristics of Web-based information said user is interested in, said user inputs deliberately generated and maintained by said user so that said Web-based information of interest to said user is provided to said user, said computer system storing said plurality of ~~one or more~~ URLs separately from said program content, wherein a URL in said plurality of ~~one or more~~ URLs is ~~are~~ retrievable independent of said program content;

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by said URL ~~one or more URLs~~ is separately displayed on said computer system.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) further comprises said computer system:

c1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

c2) identifying said plurality a subset of said set of URLs, said plurality of URLs subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

c3) storing said plurality subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

4.   (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

5.   (Canceled).

6.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

e) receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said plurality of one or more URLs.

8.   (Currently Amended) In a <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ communicatively coupled to the Internet, a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving information at said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ via the Internet, said information comprising a channel number that identifies program content that is being received by at a television from a broadcaster<u>, said channel number identified by a set top box coupled to said television and to the Internet, said channel number sent to said server computer system from said set top box</u>;

b) identifying at said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) for Web sites associated with said <u>channel number</u> ~~program content~~; and

c) communicating one or more of said URLs from said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ to a computer system that is communicatively coupled to said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ via the Internet, wherein said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ uses information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs said one or more URLs that are communicated to said computer system;

wherein said one or more URLs are stored at said computer system separately from said program content such that said one or more URLs are retrievable from said computer system without accessing said program content, wherein said identifying and communicating are performed automatically without user intervention; and

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information associated with said set of URLs is retrieved and displayed separately on said computer system.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said step b) further comprises:

b1) said server computer system ~~device~~ selecting from said set of URLs a subset of URLs of particular interest to a user.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step b1) comprises said server computer system ~~device~~:

comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

identifying a subset of said set of URLs, said subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 10 further comprising:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

12.   (Canceled).

13.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said one or more URLs are communicated from said server computer system ~~device~~ to said computer system via said ~~a~~ set top box ~~that is communicatively coupled to the Internet~~.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) In a <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ communicatively coupled to the Internet, a method for providing Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving at said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ via the Internet from a set top box a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content, said set top box receiving said set of URLs from a broadcaster, said set top box also receiving said program content from said broadcaster and directing said program content to said television;

b) said <u>server computer system</u> ~~device~~ using information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said set of URLs <u>a plurality of</u> ~~one or more~~ URLs of particular interest to a user<u>, wherein said user profile comprises user inputs that identify characteristics of Web-based information said user is interested in, and wherein said user inputs are deliberately generated and maintained by said user so that said Web-based information of interest to said user is provided to said user</u>; and

c) communicating Web-based information identified by <u>a URL in</u> said <u>plurality of</u> ~~one or more~~ URLs from said device to a computer system via the Internet, wherein said Web-based information is displayed on said computer system and said program content is separately displayed on said television.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 15 wherein said step b) comprises said device:

b1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

b2) identifying said plurality ~~a subset of said set~~ of URLs, said plurality of URLs ~~subset~~ satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

b3) storing said plurality ~~subset~~ of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 16 further comprising:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

Claims 18-20. (Canceled).

21.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 15 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said plurality of ~~one or more~~ URLs.

22.   (Canceled).

23.   (Currently Amended) A set top box comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to said bus; and

a memory unit coupled to said bus, said memory unit containing instructions that when executed implement a method for providing a user with Web-based information associated with program content viewable on a television, said method comprising:

a) receiving said program content from a broadcaster;

b) receiving from said broadcaster a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content;

c) screening said set of URLs using information in a user profile and selecting from said set of URLs <u>a plurality of</u> ~~one or more~~ URLs of particular interest to a user<u>, said user profile comprising user inputs deliberately added to and removed from said user profile by said user so that said URLs of particular interest are received by said user</u>;

d) directing said <u>plurality of</u> ~~one or more~~ URLs to a computer system and directing said program content to said television, wherein said <u>plurality of</u> ~~one or~~ ~~more~~ URLs are stored and retrieved separately from said program content, [[;]] wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by <u>a URL in said plurality of</u> ~~said one or more~~ URLs is separately displayed on said computer system.

24. (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said step c) of said method comprises:

c1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

c2) identifying said plurality ~~a subset of said set~~ of URLs, said plurality ~~subset~~ satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

c3) storing said subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

25. (Previously Presented) The set top box of Claim 24 wherein said method further comprises:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

26. (Original) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said method further comprises:

e) receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

29.   (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 23 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said plurality of one or more URLs.

30.   (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method comprising:

a) receiving at said computer system a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with program content received by a set top box, said program content directed by said set top box to a television;

b) using information in a user profile to screen said set of URLs and to select from said data stream a plurality of one or more URLs of particular interest to a user, wherein said user profile comprises user inputs that identify characteristics of Web-based information said user is interested in, and wherein said user inputs are deliberately generated and maintained by said user so that said Web-based information of interest to said user is provided to said user; and

c) storing said plurality of one or more URLs separately from said program content, wherein said plurality of one or more URLs is are retrievable independent of said program content;

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by a URL in said plurality of one or more URLs is separately displayed on said computer system.

31.   (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform said method comprising:

b1) comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

b2) identifying said plurality a subset of said set of URLs, said plurality of URLs subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

b3) storing said plurality subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

32.   (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 31 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform said method comprising:

monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

33.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

34.   (Original) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is received from a remote device via the Internet.

35.   (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes a computer system to perform said method comprising:

d) receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

36.   (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 30 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said plurality subset of URLs.

37.   (Currently Amended) A set top box comprising:

means for receiving program content from a broadcaster and for directing said program content to a television;

means for receiving from said broadcaster a data stream comprising a set of Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) identifying Web sites associated with said program content;

means for screening said set of URLs based on information in a user profile and for selecting from said data stream a plurality of one or more URLs of particular interest to a user, said user profile comprising user inputs deliberately added to and removed from said user profile by said user so that said URLs of particular interest are received by said user; and

means for directing said plurality of one or more URLs to a computer system, wherein said plurality of one or more URLs are is stored and retrieved separately from said program content;

wherein said program content is displayed on said television and Web-based information identified by a URL in said plurality of one-or-more URLs is separately displayed on said computer system.

38. (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 37 comprising:

means for comparing characteristics describing each URL in said set of URLs with user-specified characteristics in said user profile;

means for identifying said plurality a-subset-of-said-set of URLs, said plurality subset satisfying said user-specified characteristics; and

means for storing said plurality subset of URLs but not the entire said set of URLs.

39. (Original) The set top box of Claim 38 further comprising:

means for monitoring URLs selected by said user; and

means for adding characteristics describing said URLs selected by said user to said user profile.

40. (Original) The set top box of Claim 37 wherein said data stream comprising said set of URLs is embedded in said program content.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Original) The set top box of Claim 37 comprising:

means for receiving a command for performing a function from a remote device via the Internet.

43.   (Currently Amended) The set top box of Claim 37 wherein said Web-based information comprises Web pages corresponding to said <u>plurality of</u> ~~one or more~~ URLs.